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Axing spree

CITY PAGE 3

Want sewage treatment plant? Let's cut some trees

Where's BMTC?

CITY PAGE 5

Has common mobility missed the bus?

Of 8 BBMP zones, birth control for stray dogs in Mahadevapura, Yelahanka, RR Nagar carried out by lone entity amid a lack of eligible service providers

STRAY OFF COURSE

Just two organisations in city have AWBI's permission to undertake ABC drive

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been struggling to get eligible service providers to participate in the tender process for its Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme to neuter the stray dog population in the city.

BBMP conducts ABC across all eight zones, namely Mahadevapura, Yelahanka, RR Nagar, Dasarahalli, Bengaluru East, Bengaluru West, Bengaluru South and Bommanahalli.

However, according to the BBMP officials, there is only one Animal Welfare Organisation (AWO) in the city that is ready to participate in the process and has the Animal Welfare Board of India's (AWBI) permission to carry out the programme.

There are two AWOs in the city that have AWBI's permission to undertake the birth control drive: ASRA and CUPA. CUPA declined to participate in BBMP's tender process.

BBMP initiated the tender process for the programme back in March 2022.

Only one eligible bidder applied for five zones and there were no eligible bidders for the remaining three zones.

A technical evaluation committee meeting was held on April 18, 2022 and it was observed that five service providers that had applied for the tender process had neither recognition nor permission from AWBI for ABC/ARV programme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

> **AWBI's rules are a catch-22: One can't conduct mass ABC until one is accredited, but one cannot get accredited unless one has done mass ABC**
>
> — Mili Gandhi, Citizens for Animal Birth Control

BOARD EXAM BLUES

Post pandemic focus on children with special needs ahead of board exams

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The coronavirus pandemic left students across the country with stress-related issues. That said, covid-19 most severely affected children with physical or intellectual disabilities.

Now, ahead of the board examinations for classes 10 and 12, school administrations and experts are looking for ways to make the upcoming examinations friendly and comfortable for students.

"The pandemic has really aggravated the situation for students with ADHD and learning difficulties, in terms of focus and concentration levels… For such students, we already have a few accommodations, especially in CBSE and ICSE boards: for example, language exemption and extra time for certain students," said Fr Sunil Fernandes, principal, St Joseph Boys High School, Bengaluru.

"Earlier, students were put in special schools that are exclusive for children with disabilities. But now the approach is slightly different. We have to try as much as possible not to exclude any child from the formal education system. That is the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Mexican carnival

Check out "Fun Fiesta 2023" a Mexican-themed carnival with a host of activities like Mexican décor, photo booths, live workshops, kids' activities, tambola and lots of exciting games. To add more enthusiasm to the event, there will also be a lucky draw where one winner will win 1 gm gold coin free and a raffle draw where 3 lucky winners will win various prizes. **Where: Jayamahal Palace When: January 28, 11 am onwards**

02 Kathak and more

Joann's Performing Arts Company presents, RITU- Seasons of Life. Directed and choreographed by Joann Rasquinha, it brings alive the traditional repertoire of Kathak through exquisite displays, woven with intricate footwork patterns, pirouettes and graceful subtleties of the Lucknow Gharana. **Where: CMRIT College Auditorium, Marathahalli; When: January 28, 6:00 pm Information: 9845514105; Tickets: PayTM Insider**

03 Thaikkudam Bridge, live

Thaikkudam Bridge, the popular Kerala-based multi genre music band promises to take the audience on a mesmerising musical journey with a unique slant at existing tracks along with their own compositions. The band is finally in Bengaluru, a city that has greatly contributed to Indian band music and has a fine appreciation for all genre of music. **Where: at Nexus Koramangala Mall When: January 27, 6 pm Tickets: bookmyshow.com**

Day of sports & gaiety

... For Bengaluru's Anglo Indians, Republic Day is all about encouraging members to meet and interact and also pay tributes to athletes from their community

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For the Anglo-Indian community in Bengaluru, Republic Day is special for a different reason. It is the day when the members take a moment out of their busy schedules and get together to take part in various sports.

Vinisha Nero (Branch President, The All-India Anglo-Indian Association) told Bangalore Mirror, "Our Republic Day celebration is another recurring annual event, where we feature a football tournament. This year featured a throwball contest exclusively for our female members. The aim of our events is to encourage our members to meet and interact in our otherwise busy lives. Our Independence Day Hockey Festival has also been one of our biggest celebrations for over 30 years now, apart from special social and charitable events conducted around Christmas."

She said that national festivals were always special. During the 75th Independence Day event in 2022, they honoured a number of their decorated Indian Armed Forces veteran members of the branch, who have gallantly served the country. "We are proud to have many famous Anglo-Indian athletes as members over the years. Alan Schofield is a former Indian hockey wizard who represented India at the Olympics along with the legendary Major Dhyan Chand. Arjuna and Rajyotsava Awardee and 1964 Olympian the late Kenneth Powell set the racing track ablaze for India in his heyday, running with legends like Milkha Singh," she said.

The cricket pitch also featured 1983 World Cup Champion and current BCCI President Roger Binny, and in later years his son Stuart Binny followed his famous father's footsteps, playing for India and the IPL. Indoor sports are not new to the branch, with branch member Sean Davis currently ranked as KSBA's Snooker Champion. The Bengaluru Branch is in the process of setting up a dedicated community centre at Yerappanahalli, located about 11km from Hennur Road, Nero said.

Various events were organised for Republic Day by the All-India Anglo-Indian Association on Thursday

Nero said that there were 25,000-30,000 Anglo-Indians in Karnataka and out of them, 60 per cent reside in Bengaluru while there are members in places like Mysuru, Hubballi and other districts. The Bengaluru branch of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association is currently 106 years old while there are 63 branches across India. While English is the mother tongue, many of the community members are now fluent in Kannada as well.

Nero said, "A number of our community members are very adept at conversing fluently not just in Kannada, but in several instances, multiple other Indian languages as well. Though a tiny ethnic group, we integrate easily into everyday life and have almost no trouble interacting with government departments and municipal offices, etc. We encourage our children to learn the second and third languages according to the school curriculum, supporting it with private tuition wherever necessary. As always, the younger generation adapt more easily, thanks to their classmates, using public transport, and so on."

The community is also known for their traditional food. Nero said, "When it comes to traditional Anglo-Indian food, we have much to offer. Our signature dishes include very flavoursome coconut rice served with a spicy minced meatball curry and a fiery-tangy "devil's chutney."

Celebrating Republic Day

On Thursday, to mark India's 74th Republic Day, vendors of Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka participated in a free eye check-up drive and blood donation camp in Rajajinagar. There was also a flag hoisting ceremony. Addressing the gathering, principal of SJR College Dr Prema Siddaraju spoke about the importance of newspapers and how youths can benefit from reading TOI, VK and BM, and of the crucial role it plays in shaping students' career.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Republic fervour Republic Day celebrations at Eidgah maidan in Chamarajpet.

Special focus on special kids

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reason all the CBSE and ICSE schools had made it mandatory to have a special educator and a counsellor in all the schools," he further added. According to child rights activists, many students with special needs might face difficulties during the board examinations and should be given special focus by schools.

"The main problem for these students is that the examination halls are not disabled-friendly. During board examinations, students need to go to external examination centres and give the test. However, children with disabilities might not be comfortable with the environment of the new centre, or with the people there. When they are going to the same school every day, they get used to the environment but new places can affect the students psychologically," explained Nagasimha G Rao, director, Child Rights Trust.

"Disabilities can be both physical and intellectual. The main thing is, for two years during the pandemic these children could not get any special classes online or proper medical assistance. So schools need to give special importance to these children now... Transportation might be a big challenge for students with disabilities, too, especially in rural areas. If the examination centre is far away, who is taking responsibility for their transportation?" Rao asked.

The CBSE and ICSE boards have certain 'concessions' for the students such as extra time, exemption from third language for class 10 examination, accommodation for a scribe, etc. in order to ensure that no child with special needs is denied admission.

"Just like CBSE and ICSE, the state board has also allowed certain exemptions for the students with special needs like extra time and language exemption. There are no such concessions for the exam centre but the goal is to make sure that the child's basic right to education is not violated. The main goal is inclusivity in education and the board is trying to accommodate all students into the formal education system," D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), said.

Want sewage treatment plants? Let us chop trees

BWSSB seeks permission to cut trees to upgrade STPs in Koramangala, Challaghatta valley

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has put up a public notice inviting public objections against the removal of 305 trees from Koramangala and Challaghatta valley (K&C valley). This time, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has sought permission from the forest cell to cut the trees for the upgradation and rehabilitation of two Sewage Treatment plants (STP) of 248 MLD capacity.

BWSSB has four sewage treatment plants near Nagasandra Village, known as K&C valley STPs. The plants, put together, are treating 40 per cent of the sewage generated from Bengaluru City. Out of the four STPs, two, namely 218 MLD capacity and 30 MLD capacity plants were built around 25 and 18 years back respectively.

According to the board, after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) revised the effluent discharge standards of new as well as existing or under-construction STPs, the two plants need upgradation.

The board has also cited the Minor Irrigation Department's project to recharge the area's groundwater table by filling the lakes of Kolar district and Chikkaballapur taluk with treated water from K&C valley STPs. The plants with the latest discharge standards prescribed by NGT and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will help in supplying more water to the lakes in Kolar and Chikkaballapur.

Tree activists and environmentalists in the city say the easiest solution that the government agencies seem to have, is to cut down trees. Some, once again, raised questions on the role of the Tree Expert Committee (TEC).

"TEC should get indulged in the process more actively and should evaluate project proposals and must challenge them too. The agencies have normalised the process of tree-cutting. Three hundred trees are not a small number. Have they conducted a study on how mitigation should be done in the best way possible?" said Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha Foundation.

> **The agencies have normalised tree-cutting. Three hundred trees is not a small number**
>
> –Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha Foundation.

Some also point to the discrepancy in the number of trees that have been proposed to be removed for the project.

As per the document, while BWSSB had sought permission to cut 259 trees, the officials from Forest Department, after visiting the site in December to survey the project area, identified as many as 305 trees.

"The discrepancy requires an explanation. Moreover, the trees identified for removal are of girth size less than 30 cm and height equal to or less than four metre," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee, Bangalore Environment Trust.

Stray deaths in BTM point at foul play

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Residents of BTM say that nearly five stray dogs have died and three are on verge of dying, pointing towards foul play. However, BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department says that the cause for their deaths is Canine Distemper (CD).

The resident told BM that a few people have also been against her feeding the strays. She had filed a case at SG Palya Police Station but an FIR was not lodged. The residents also filed a complaint with the Animal Husbandry Department on January 23.

"For the past few years, locals have been opposing the feeding of dogs. In the past 10-15 years, street dogs are being eradicated periodically. There was a female dog and her three small pups but they died last December," said the resident.

In the complaint filed with SG Palya Police Station, the residents alleged that they have often faced intimidation for feeding the dogs.

After BM brought the case to the attention of the BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department, a veterinarian from BBMP administered medicines to the dogs on January 24.

Joint Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, BBMP, Dr KP Ravikumar said, "After enquiring with the zonal officers, we have determined the case to be CD, positively. Now, the dogs are healthy."

A 'foreign hand' in this land sale

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Foreign nationals are not eligible to acquire or buy agricultural land in India and they need special permission from the Reserve Bank of India to do so. However, a South Korean national is said to have not only bought agricultural land near Bagalur but also sold it without any hassle, thanks to authorities who choose to remain oblivious.

> **A woman complains against South Korean, accusing him of having bought and sold agricultural land, with no action from officials**

According to complainant A Jayasheela, Do Woong Choi, who came to Bengaluru in 1996 on behalf of India Peace Social Welfare Charitable Trust, approached her about 2 acres and 05 guntas of land belonging to her and one Dhansegaran near Bagalur.

They agreed to give a general power of attorney (GPA) in favour of the Trust represented by its chairman Do Woong Choi and others on October 15, 2003.

A registered Agreement of Sale is later said to have been executed by the Trust without Jayasheela's knowledge.

"He approached me in 2003 but did nothing even after seven years. I came to know that he used to operate a joint account opened in SBI branch at Kacharakanahalli even after the death of the secretary. The account was opened on behalf of Choi and secretary of the Trust. It made me suspect him and I revoked the GPA given to him," said Jayasheela.

Though the GPA was revoked, Choi is said to have executed an Absolute Sale Deed on April 20, 2011 in favour of V Segaran, a DRDO employee at the time of sale consideration of Rs 1,60,50,000 which was paid in cash.

Jayasheela filed a civil suit seeking a temporary injunction and set aside the illegal Absolute Sale Deed executed in favour of Segaran.

Bagalur Police, based on a complaint by Jayasheela, registered a criminal case against Do Woong Choi and others on December 13, 2013 under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. He was arrested and released on conditional bail.

However, Choi shifted his home to Kammanahalli from Kothanur without informing the Bagalur police.

He also stopped appearing before the Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate of First Class from March 6, 2019. The judge ordered the issue of non-bailable warrant to the accused and a notice to the surety on October 20, 2022 and posted the case on March 9, 2023.

Two police constables were sent to Choi's residence on Tuesday, but they had to return as he was not at home.

A 4-year-old burning issue

P&T Layout residents go on walkathon to highlight pollution in their area

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While the city celebrated Republic Day, January 26 held a different meaning for the 80-odd adults and children of P&T Layout in Thanisandra. The residents chose the occasion to go on a walkathon seeking relief from the polluted environment in their layout. After hoisting the national flag to mark Republic Day, they walked 2.5 km to submit a memorandum to the KR Puram Police Inspector. They held placards with slogans – 'Stop burning waste', 'Give care, clean up air', 'This is only our home save it', 'Breathless!' 'Stop garbage burning'.

Since 2019, the residents have been running from pillar to post pleading authorities to remove the temporary sheds put up on private land where hundreds of rag-pickers are residing. They complain that the temporary sheds have become a health hazard for them.

"Initially, there were only a few temporary sheds. Now, there are around 500 people residing on the private land," said Guru Basavaswamy, a resident of Anandapura near P&T Layout.

Burning plastic at night had reportedly become a routine in the area; residents had complained about the problem multiple times as they were worried about the smoke emanating being a health hazard

Anand Ramachandran, a resident of P&T Layout, said there was more than 50 to 60 tonnes of accumulated plastic with those rag pickers. "They should segregate waste as per the norms. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot on two to three occasions to douse fires caused by burning plastic," he said.

Burning plastic at night had become a routine, Divya Shenoy, another resident of the area, said. She added that she was worried about her health due to the amount of white billowing plastic smoke at night. Residents have been writing letters to KR Puram Police Inspector and BBMP authorities for the last four years, but nothing has been done to redress their grievances till date. "We approached the BBMP authorities for a redressal but they advised us to lodge a complaint with KR Puram police. When approached by the KR Puram police, they said that it is the responsibility of the BBMP authorities. We found BBMP trucks unloading dry waste on this private land," said P&T Layout Residents' Welfare Association secretary Girish Shenoy.

> **"They should segregate waste. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot on two or three occasions to douse fires caused by burning plastic**
> – Anand Ramachandran, resident

BBMP Junior Health Inspector Chandrakala said a notice has been issued to the property owner. "I, along with BBMP marshals, visited the spot," said Chandrakala.

Ravi Nagaraj, the land owner, confirmed that he received a notice from the BBMP. "I have asked the tenants to vacate the land. They requested me to give them two- or three-months' time," he added.

Classy La Reina wins winter derby in style

It truly proved to be 'Ladies Day Out' on derby day at the Bangalore Turf Club. The classy La Reina, fresh from her sterling effort in the Oaks, second behind Mirra, produced another astounding effort in the blue riband of the winter season. In the Wolf 777 Winter Derby at the races on Republic Day, Neeraj Rawal, who partnered the `Queen' filly, produced an exemplary effort which provided an object lesson to the youngsters hoping to don silks and make the classic list in the years ahead. Champion trainer Padmanabhan was immensely pleased with the success of the star performer who catapulted to fame this season.

"I told Rawal that he will run 1-2 in the Oaks and he couldn't believe his ears. But after he went down fighting Mirra, he only wanted to ride La Reina in the mega event. He produced a top draw effort to add another classic victory to his distinguished list."

After the nine best colts and two fillies, La Reina and double classic winner Victoria Punch came under the starter's flag for the rich mile-and-half classic journey. The Sulaiman Attaollahi schooled Prague piloted by leading pro Trevor Patel in his customary front running role hit the front and set a decent pace all through the backstretch. Nohoper George Everest from Neil Darashah's yard followed the leader in the first couple of furlongs before Neeraj decided to follow Prague, knowing that his filly had the required stamina to make them all run in the straight. While Neeraj chose to race upfront, Suraj, astride the favourite Ashwa Magadheera from his father Satish Narredu's yard, was content to race in mid-division while the Chennai raider Trevalius, piloted by Srinath, chose to play the waiting game.

After Prague shot his bolt at the top of the straight, Neeraj pushed La Reina ahead and the champion filly quickly assumed command before powering home to land the Derby riches in emphatic fashion. The ladies brigade had made it clear that the big cheer would go out for the best lady, and La Reina provided all her supporters a reason to smile. Rank-outsider Last Wish from Neil Devaney's yard, partnered by Chotu Singh Jodha, surprised the most by gaining the runner-up berth ahead of the public choice Ashwa Magadheera. Trevalius only managed to stay in the frame.

> **"The Indian Derby on the first Sunday of February is too quick for the filly and will prove to be taxing, so I have decided to sit out at home and lock horns**
> – Padmanabhan, trainer

The owners of La Reina cherish the moment with the star performer

La Reina's next target is the Champion Of Champions event, the Indian Turf Invitation Cup, on the first Sunday of March. That will prove to be the big test for the star performer who, at the moment, is on top of her game "The Indian Derby on the first Sunday of February is too quick for the filly and will prove to be taxing, so I have decided to sit out at home and lock horns with the best on the Indian racing circuit in home conditions," said Padmanabhan.

— Ikram Khan

Stray focus: Birth control woes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"However, due to the lack of permission from AWBI, the whole process is infructuous. We have written multiple times to AWBI regarding this issue. However, there has been no response so far. We had to cancel the last tender. Although we have got the earlier tender extended so the programme does not suffer. But we have not been able to take forward the new tender. Even if AWOs participate in the process, they will get rejected in absence of the permission certificate," said Dr Trilok Chandra, special commissioner, health department, BBMP.

At present, out of eight BBMP zones, the ABC programme in three zones — Mahadevapura, Yelahanka and RR Nagar — is being carried out by the ASRA animal welfare organisation, which has permission from AWBI. While AWOs such as Sarvodaya Sevabhami Samsthe, VSWARD and Care for Voiceless Animal Trust (COVA) have applied for permission from Bengaluru South and West, Bengaluru East and Bommanahalli, and Dasarahalli, respectively, they say their accreditations have been kept on hold for months without any information stating the reason for this delay.

"We have completed over three years of being registered as a welfare trust and have vaccinated over 27,000 dogs under the ARV drive since 2021. In conformance with the circular dated June 30, 2017, we have met the criteria of over 10 quality surgeries per day. Yet, our AWBI accreditation has been kept on hold. Neither have we received the accreditation, nor have we received a letter that states why we cannot be given the certification," said a representative of COVA.

"We applied for permission six months ago. However, we were informed that the format of filing applications has been modified. We have reapplied and are waiting for an inspection. This is an unnecessary requirement from the AWBI. Moreover, the board should inspect the premises provided by the BBMP, and not the organisations conducting the process. There are eight zones to cover with just one AWO eligible to carry out the process," a representative of Sarvodya said.

In absence of permissions, BBMP has cleared the files of previous AWOs for the time being to continue till the new tender is floated. "By 2030, we have to declare the country rabies-free; BBMP is working in that direction. We will float fresh tenders once AWBI grants permission to the rest of the service providers. AWBI has to act quickly," said a senior official from the animal husbandry department.

Animal welfare activists miffed

According to animal welfare activists, a large and growing city like Bengaluru needs multiple centres and contractors to manage the ABC programme. It is the most important factor that can help reduce and later check the growing stray dog populations in the city.

"The delay by AWBI in issuing permission is affecting the number of rabies cases. AWBI's rules are a catch-22: One can't conduct mass ABC until one is accredited, but one cannot get accredited unless one has done mass ABC. Therefore, most municipalities and panchayats are paralysed, and the dog population keeps growing. Delay from AWBI in approvals means more dogs, more cruelty and many more such issues. The board must act swiftly," said Mili Gandhi, co-founder, Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

Gender inclusivity: Let's start with textbooks

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City schools are aiming to revise textbooks to include more gender inclusive words as soon as possible. A school principal said, "The NCERT's draft is in the right direction as it is high time we start using gender inclusive words. Although teachers try to use gender neutral words in many schools, textbooks continue to use old language that serves no purpose. We need to follow inclusivity in both letter and spirit."

In the guidelines issued recently, Professor Gouri Srivastava (Department of Gender Studies, NCERT) said that the education system in India relies on printed text material that is largely accessed by students and teachers.

"Several studies on evaluation of textual materials have highlighted an element of gender bias and/or stereotype in the selection of themes, content portrayal and visual depiction. There is also a tendency on the part of authors to overlook the contributions made by women in different fields. This kind of portrayal is also reflected in the use of adjectives and pronouns, in the choice of themes and narratives, and in different subjects offered at the school stage. This leads to the perpetuation of qualities being associated with masculinity and femininity," explained Srivastava.

Teachers say inclusivity has to be followed in letter and spirit

The draft also proposes broad reforms.

For example, it says women role models in the past and present need to be embedded in different domains of subjects at the school stage. The authors may, in their narratives, focus more on trials and tribulations of selected role models in the journey of their achievement. In case customary practices are mentioned, identifying the reason for its existence, geographical region of its spread, and its impact need to be discussed. Its presentation should also raise critical questions of its continued existence and preventive measures and laws designed for its discontinuance (for example: child marriage, dowry). Indicators on gender can be included to discuss the status of women, men, transgender persons in society, particularly in relation to education, literacy, and demography with suitable explanations.

The draft further read, "Diversities of case studies of women's contributions from different walks of life can be utilised... Tokenistic representation of women in visual, content, and exercises should be avoided while male stereotypes to be addressed."

Come to terms with it

- Mankind - Humankind
- Story of man - Story of humans
- Policeman - Police officer
- Chairman - Chairperson
- Fireman - Fireperson, firefighter
- Waiter - Server
- Businessman - Business executive
- Brotherhood - Kinship
- Manning - Staffing
- Manpower - Human power

Has common mobility missed the bus?

As Metro to launch multi-system transport card soon, experts ask why BMTC has been kept out

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) is all set to launch the multi-system transport card -- National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) in a month. However, a glaring omission in the card is being slammed roundly by mobility experts. The card being launched does not include Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

Four years after the Centre announced the NCMC card, Bengalureans will be able to finally use them soon. Namma Metro announced the opening of NCMC services within a month. A week ago, Mumbai metro too launched the NCMC card.

BMRCL MD Anjum Parwez told BM, "We will be able to launch the NCMC card within a month. All the issues with it have been sorted and the system has been streamlined."

BMRCL has tied up with RBL bank for issuing and providing services for NCMC. An NCMC is a bank-issued debit/credit/prepaid card that can be used for making payments across the metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking etc.

To get the project off the ground, BMRCL retrofitted all the Automated Fare Collection (AFC) gates coming under Phase 1 of the metro and all the subsequent stations were already made NCMC compliant.

The NCMC card was envisioned to be a single card across all transport systems and was conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Government of India in 2019. However, it is learned that the card is being launched first in BMRCL and BMTC and KSRTC might follow in future.

Metro passengers waiting for BMTC bus at Baiyappanahalli metro station (file photo)

> **"Such a complex project requiring coordination of multiple departments in the city should be handled by BMLTA**
>
> –Ashwin Mahesh, mobility expert

But the decision to launch the card without integration of BMTC or KSRTC services has called into question the purpose of NCMC. Namma metro already has a card, QR and app-based ticket payment system and without the addition of BMTC it might become just another card.

As part of its overall steps to digitalise BMTC services and make way for NCMC, BMTC has procured 8,000 Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETM) from Noida-based Pine Labs on a rental basis.

The machines will allow for payment through UPI and card.

Mobility experts and public transport experts questioned the move.

"The NCMC without BMTC lacks the spirit of commonality. Projects like NCMC which require inter-department coordination should be handled by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA). While we welcome the move and bring forth a standardised approach for payments, it must be questioned when BMTC will be integrated. Metro should also phase out its smart cards after the launch," said Srinivas Alavilli, public mobility activist.

"Such a complex project requiring coordination of multiple departments should be handled by BMLTA. There is a need to form a multi-stakeholder representative with authority to take decisions for effective implementation of such projects," said mobility expert, Ashwin Mahesh.

Mobility experts also question if the NCMC will be integrated with last-mile connectivity needs. "The card should facilitate payments for providing last-mile connectivity services from e-bikes, public bicycle sharing systems, autos and cabs. Otherwise, they should focus on utilising QR codes for uniformity and focus on addressing last-mile connectivity issues," said Sathya Sankaran, Bengaluru Bicycle Mayor.

Get on the train to airport

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The Mainline Electric Multiple Units (Memu) train service to the airport started by South Western Railway (SWR) over six months ago is still struggling with poor ridership. As per the ridership data of the first six months (July to December 2022) of the six trains, the daily average ridership has been around 16 passengers.

Amidst the service reeling under pressure, the SWR's inspection of railway electrification work between Srinivaspura and Chikkaballapura being conducted today has given a ray of hope to public transport proponents in the city.

The speed trial inspection is being carried out and the locomotive will depart from Bengaluru (SBC) to Chikaballapur (CMY) via Yelahanka. According to rail activists, while in the past passengers have given feedback to SWR for extending all MEMU services to Chikkaballapura, it has not been considered so far leading to low footfall.

"Extending the trains up to Chikkaballapura will also fetch more footfall. Many students study in various colleges in Chikkaballapura and can use this service," said a student from Chikkaballapur area and a train enthusiast.

Users claim the issue of punctuality of the service has not been addressed too so far.

Six MEMU trains are currently taking round trips to and from Devanahalli. To date, they are all going almost empty. It has been six months but the ridership has not improved. Till December 2022, as many as 2,489 passengers have availed of the service to the Airport. While 595 people used the Memu train service to reach the airport in August, this number was 363 in September, 494 in October, 457 in November and 559 in December.

"The trains do not stop at multiple stopovers on their journey from the city to the Airport. The trains must be extended to Chikkaballapur immediately post the inspection. While it is not a major town, many students and farmers commute to and from the city regularly. It is a good opportunity for SWR to increase ridership. The trains should get extended right to Kolar and then up to Bangarpet. Lakhs of people will benefit if this happens. Moreover, SWR will be able to cater to the surrounding towns from chikkaballapur as well," said Rajkumar Dugar, a city-based rail activist.

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I Shalini Srivatsan R/o 883 11th Cross,23rd Main, 2nd Phase J P Nagar B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Shalini Seshadri for all purposes

I, Diwaker Mittal S/o Brij Bhushan Mittal R/o # 970 M Block Republic of Whitefield APts, Kundalahalli Village Bengaluru 560066 have changed my name to Diwakar Mittal for all purposes.

I, Supriya N Mahajanshetti, R/a Alpine Pyramid, D Block, 802, 8th floor, 12th main, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Kodigehalli, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097. I have changed my name from Supriya Aneppanavar to Supriya N Mahajanshetti. Vide affidavit dt : 24.01.2023. Sworn before notary : Sivakumara.M.N.

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WHAT'S IN FASHION?

If you go by Paris Fashion Week, it is controversy and frivolity

The pioneering Black performer Josephine Baker — who left the United States to find global fame in Paris in the 1920s — was Dior's muse for an old school spring couture collection of archetypal classicism. With her caressing velvets and silks, embroideries, sequins and tiny silver studs, designer Maria Grazia Chiuri may not have reinvented the wheel, but she certainly embellished it beautifully on the first day Monday of Paris Fashion Week.

Yet the event's first day wasn't without controversy after Dior was criticized for inviting a Russia influencer sanctioned by Ukraine. Moreover, Schiaparelli was the subject of online ire for glamorizing trophy hunting after featuring a fake lion's head.

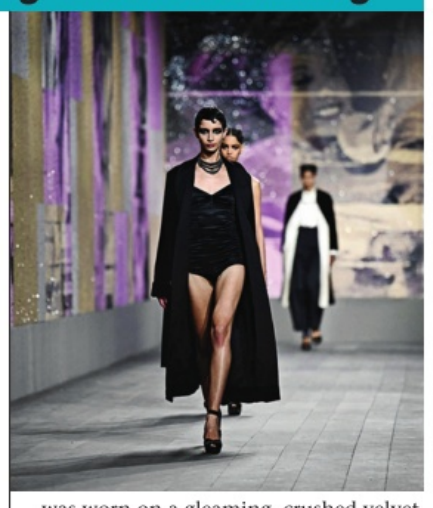
Here are some highlights of the spring-summer haute couture displays:

DIOR'S BAKER

Lining the perfume-scented interiors of an annex inside the Rodin Museum gardens were giant images by African American artist Mickalene Thomas of Josephine Baker alongside other Black American female icons. The stark tableaux photographs documented Baker's extraordinary life and her many roles: as member of the French Resistance, civil rights activist and humanist as well as dancer and performer.

Guests took their seats, curious and excited.

According to Dior, a series of coats, a take on bathrobe styles depicted "the cozy, intimate dressing room that precedes (Baker's) entrance on stage." In couture terms they were undeniably beautiful, if somewhat restrained. The first came in silk velvet; its black diamond lapels hung with a dramatic weight. It was worn over delicately smocked satin swimwear in a take on the 1950s. Elsewhere, knit-like mesh made of silk and steel beads cut a fine vintage style on one ensemble, while also evoking a quiet female power. It



was worn on a gleaming, crushed velvet evening robe to suggest intimacy.

Later, Chiuri slightly let her hair down and got her fringe on. Baker's heyday was evoked in a steel beaded mesh skirt trimmed with sparkling fringe.

Although the theme created an expectation that the Dior clothes themselves may offer some powerful exploration of racism or being Black, the collection itself remained very Parisian. It was only a veiled homage to the Black pioneer who fought battles against race, gender and nationality all her life.

That being said, it was admirable how many models of color walked the show -- in over half the 60 looks -- especially because of the fact Paris Fashion Week, and the luxury industry as a whole, have wrestled with persistent accusations of being white-centric.

SCHIAPARELLI MAKES SURREAL TWISTS

Glamorous frivolity, exaggerated silhouettes and surreal takes on classics harking from the 1930s heyday of house founder Elsa Schiaparelli.

That was the mood at the first spring-summer couture show of the season -- and what a start! -- with its lashings of gold, intricate embellishments and rollcall of front row VIPs inside the lofty gilded atrium of the Petit Palais.

Designer Daniel Roseberry was on top form Monday -- taking classical styles and giving them unexpected twists. A dark tuxedo with stiff oversize shoulders was transformed into a minimalist, space-age jumpsuit.

A bronze bustier reimagined as a giant oyster shell rose up like a fan that obscured the model's face. Its incredible pearl embellishments were rendered in organic, crystallized layers showing off the deftness of the house atelier.

Myriad embellished baubles -- almost resembling wet pearls -- organically dripped off a blown-up bolero jacket that cut a beautiful silhouette, and had perhaps belonged to some underwater princess. Yet the collection was reverential to the house founder whose unique brand of frivolity charmed audiences around the world.

A giant lion's head -- replete with fangs and bushy mane -- modeled by Irina Shayk added a bite to this collection. It was an inventive nod to Surrealism -- but also a statement about the absurdity of the use of fur.

Kylie Jenner, who sat front row at Schiaparelli also wearing a 3-D lion's head and a gold snakeskin bag, was later criticised online amid accusations of glamorising animal cruelty.

IRIS VAN HERPEN GOES DIGITAL

Against the grain of Paris Fashion Week, which is turning its back on digital, Dutch Wunderkind said of her latest couture offering that she "is proud to announce that... instead of a traditional runway show, the brand shows a digital presentation that allows for more creative freedom and storytelling." —AP

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PVR CINEMAS {Phoenix Market City, 9:15 a.m., 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15 p.m. | Forum Mall, Kormangala, 9:00 a.m., 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00 p.m. | Orion Mall, 9:15 a.m., 12:30, 3:45, 7:00 10:15 p.m. | Vegacity Mall, 9:30 a.m., 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Shantiniketan, 9:30 a.m., 12:45, 4:00, 7:15 10:30 p.m.}.
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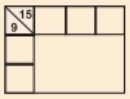
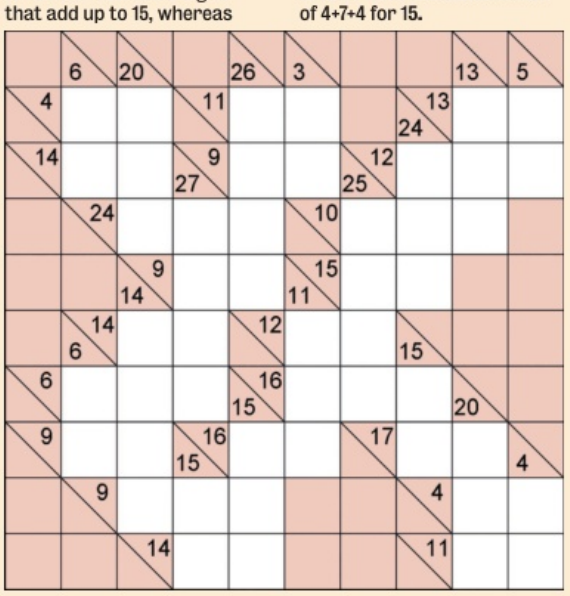
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

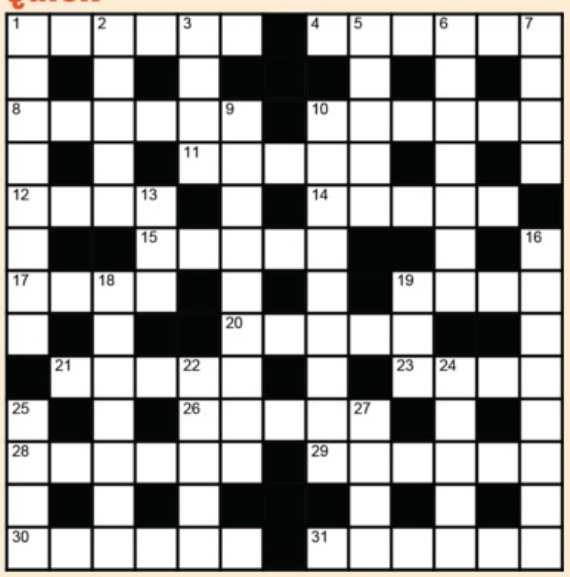


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Permits (6)
4 Thwart; hinder (6)
8 Weaken (6)
10 Injured slightly? (6)
11 Faithful (5)
12 Mother of Zeus (4)
14 Sheen (5)
15 News sources (5)
17 Store (4)
19 Prosperous period (4)
20 First prime minister of India (5)
21 Bristles–"tease" anagram? (5)
23 Musical instrument (4)
26 Biblical hymn (5)
28 Value or appraise (6)
29 Birds of prey (6)
30 Nervous or anxious (6)
31 Profundity (6)

DOWN

1 Bee farmer (8)
2 Fall out of date (5)
3 Cry in despair (4)
5 Textile fabric (5)
6 Manages with whatever is available (5,2)
7 Concludes (4)
9 Unruly behaviour (9)
10 National park home to many tigers and elephants (9)
13 Unit of current (3)
16 Stalemates (8)
18 Supervise (7)
19 Nevertheless (3)
22 Church sections (5)
24 Without illumination (5)
25 Hindu wind God (4)
27 Female horse (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS H

GS VM PGS NCSFPSMP FCPVMP AGK GFM SYHKWVSW, VT PGS MDY KX GVM AKCBM, PGS NCSFPSMP TDYHSC KX PGS NCSFPSMP VWSFM.

Linemaro

I plan on bugging you daily for the foreseeable future

Mindchow

Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are

Joke of the day

Whenever I feel the need to exercise, I lie down until it goes away

Loop

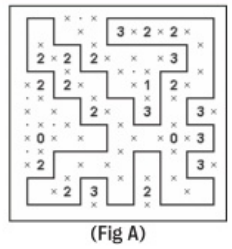
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

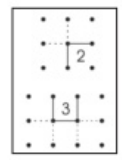
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

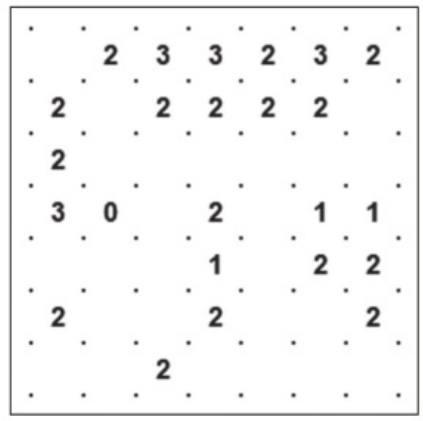
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



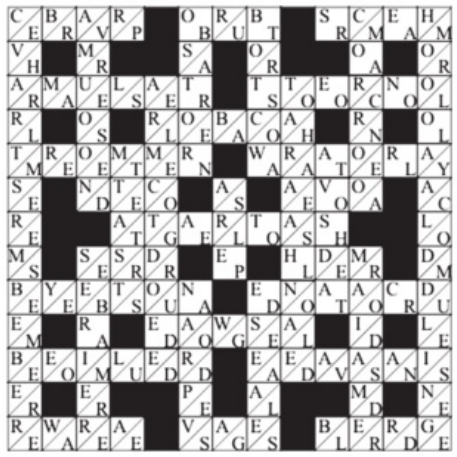
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



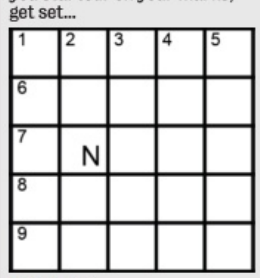
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

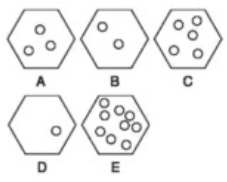
1 Ceres; 6 Akola; 7 Treen; 8 Cited; 9 To Hot

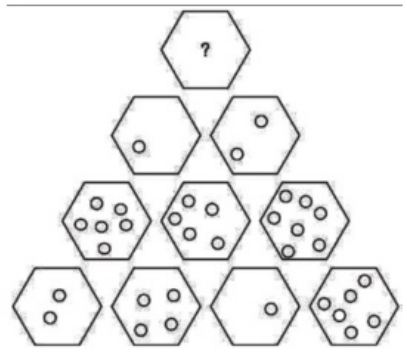
DOWN

1 St eke; 2 No doc; 3 At Rio; 4 Lee CT; 5 Heart

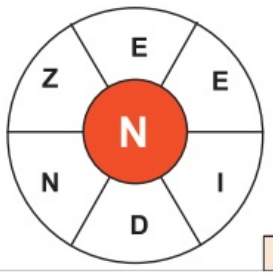
Mensapuzzle

Which hexagon should replace the question mark?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

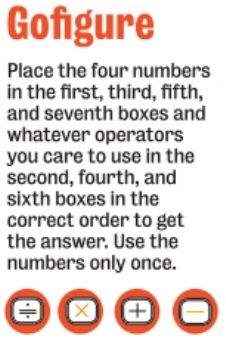
SudokuChallenge

				6		7		
		2	5		8	1		
8	9						6	
	6			2			8	
2			6		1			3
	4			7			5	
	3						9	7
		1	3		7	5		
		5		8				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

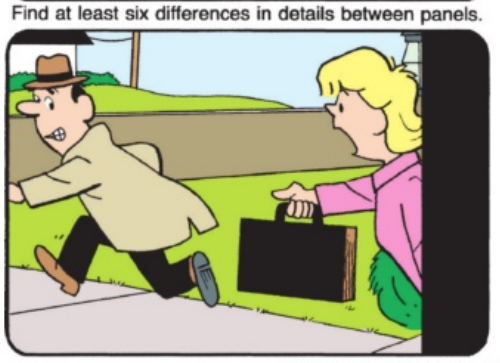
Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



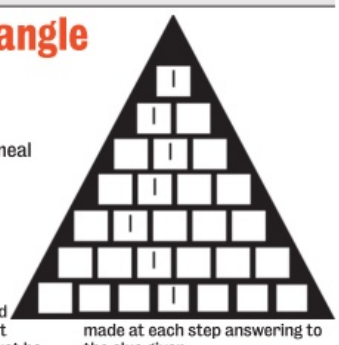
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Briefcase is larger. 3. Arm is shorter. 4. Hair is different. 5. Ear is larger. 6. Coat collar is different.

Riddler

Which famous London landmark might DELAY WEB SUMMIT?

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 Not out
3 Racket or noise
4 Peel
5 Person eating a meal
6 Pal
7 Purified



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I HEARD YOU TEACH REAL MAGIC. AND I WANT IN!
I DON'T JUST TEACH ANYONE! YOU NEED TO HAVE MAGIC IN YOUR BLOOD! YOU HAVE TO LOVE ALLUSIONS TO ILLUSIONS. YOU NEED A PERCEPTION OF MISDIRECTION.
THE FOCUS FOR HOCUS POCUS?
MAYBE YOU DO HAVE WHAT IT TAKES...
@DOCMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel good. Family harmony will make you happy. You may meet some influential person to get some benefits on the work front. You are likely to perform well at your job, so you may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes over inherited property are likely to settle down.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may find yourself in a self-analysis state which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear. You may get some success. Your creativity might improve and you will take an interest in artefacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life. Your opponents may be under control now.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may have mixed situations around you. It is advised to not expect much from anyone around you as it may leave you disappointed. Today you may be in a state of self-exploration and analysis, which may allow you to filter your thoughts. After the filtration process, you may feel confident and be able to accept challenges.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel some negativity around you, which can make you upset. You may find your responsibilities to be a burden. You may be in a hurry to complete tasks given to you. You can make silly mistakes. Your working efficiency may slow down, which may affect your day-to-day work. Your projects are likely to be delayed.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a positive day for you and you may get success for your hard work on the professional front. You may have good focus and will be able to complete your work before time, which can improve your self-confidence. You may also expect some work-related short trips which may be beneficial in the near future in terms of your network.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may expect to get some inherited assets. You may perform with patience on the work front, which may increase your efficiency. You may be polite with the people around you. You may put less effort into day-to-day work. You may use your communication skills to get new business in terms of progress on the work front.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may give you patience. Externally, you may face some work-related stress, but your inner senses may be calm and cool. This may help you balance everything. You may enjoy every moment in your work and domestic life. Your parents' health is now okay. You may hear some good news from your siblings.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel unhappy. Some old health issues may arise, which can make you impatient. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying worthless things. You are advised to control your temper. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there might be conflict.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are likely to enjoy your domestic and professional life. You may become polite with the people around you, which may help in completion of your work. You may find some new sources of earnings, which may boost your savings. You may also plan to renovate your house or office. You can expect promotions.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be busy on the work front. With the help of elders, you are likely to implement some new innovations in your work. You may be ethical and follow rules while dealing with the people around you, which may give you inner peace and strength.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be satisfied with your responsibilities at work. you may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit a spiritual religious place to maintain your inner peace and positivity. Your elders may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel dull. It is advised to keep your mind cool. Think twice before you act. You may need to travel to recover your money. You are advised to avoid adventure tours. Students are advised to go for in-depth study to get success. You may also be attracted to the occult.

KIDZONE

Srishti Nagraj, 9 Years, Clarence Public School

Poshak K, 8 Years, Venkat International Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
25 + 125 – 120 x 2 / 12 = 130

BULL'S EYE
DENIZEN, dine, need, nine

RIDDLER
Wembley Stadium

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	E	E
K	O	A	L	A
E	N	T	E	R
E	D	I	C	T
T	O	O	T	H

QUOTE UNCODE
He is the greatest artist who has embodied, in the sum of his works, the greatest number of the greatest ideas.

STRIKE OUT

C	R	A	P	B	U	T		S	C	A	M			
H	M		A		O			O						
A	M	U	S	E	R		S	T	E	R	O	L		
R		S		L	E	A	C	H		N		L		
T	E	E	T	E	R		A	R	T	E	R	Y		
M		E		R		A		E		V		A		
E		D	E	C		A		E	V	A		C		
R		A	T	A	L	O	S	S		O				
M	E	R	R		P	H	E	M		D				
E	Y	E	S	O	N		D	O	T	A	R	D		
M		R		D	O	W	E	L		D		L		
B	O	I	L	E	D		A	D	V	A	N	I		
A	S	S	E	S	S		E	A	G	L	E	S		
V		R		P	S	A	L	M		N		S		
S	E	T	A	E		O		T	U	B	A			
T		V		N	E	H	R	U		P				
S	H	O	P		I		R		B	O	O	M		
I		M	E	D	I	A			D			I		
R	H	E	A		W		G	L	O	S	S			
A		S		L	O	V	A	L		E		S		
I	M	P	A	I	R		N	I	C	K	E	D		
P		A		A		W		A		N				
U	N	E	A	S	Y		D	E	P	T	H	S		

QUICK

A	L	L	O	W	S		S	T	Y	M	I	E		
P		A		W		A		N						
P	A	S	S		B	E	R	G						
Y		E		E		R		I		E				
A	S	S	E	S	S		E	A	G	L	E	S		
V		R		P	S	A	L	M		N		S		
S	E	T	A	E		O		T	U	B	A			
T		V		N	E	H	R	U		P				
S	H	O	P		I		R		B	O	O	M		
I		M	E	D	I	A			D			I		
R	H	E	A		W		G	L	O	S	S			
A		S		L	O	V	A	L		E		S		
I	M	P	A	I	R		N	I	C	K	E	D		
P		A		A		W		A		N				
U	N	E	A	S	Y		D	E	P	T	H	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
A: the contents of each hexagon are determined by the contents of the two hexagons directly below it. In the second row from the bottom, add the number of circles in the hexagons below. In the third row from the bottom take the difference, in the top circle add again, so one circle plus two circles means three circles in the top hexagon.

SUDOKU

5	1	4	2	6	9	7	3	8
6	7	2	5	3	8	1	4	9
8	9	3	7	1	4	2	6	5
3	6	7	4	2	5	9	8	1
2	5	8	6	9	1	4	7	3
1	4	9	8	7	3	6	5	2
4	3	6	1	5	2	8	9	7
9	8	1	3	4	7	5	2	6
7	2	5	9	8	6	3	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Din, Rind, Diner, Friend, Refined.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 – 3 x 3 – 6 = 12
Medium
9 x 5 / 9 – 2 = 3
Hard
5 x 6 – 5 – 4 = 21

LOOP

KAKURO

6	20		26	3			13	5
4	1	3	11	9	2	24	9	4
	5	9	27	8	1	25	8	3
9	4	5	16	9	7	17	8	9
6	2	1	3	15	1	8	7	20
	14	8	6	12	3	9	15	
	9	7	2	11	6	9		
4	8	9	7	16	9	7	1	4
3	1		14	9	2	11	3	8

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Samantha inspires fans by performing rigorous pull-ups at gym

FIGHTING FIT

In her latest Instagram post, Samantha Ruth Prabhu displays her physical strength by performing challenging pull-ups while providing a glimpse into her autoimmune diet. In addition to sharing a workout video, Samantha also provided an insight into her diet while undergoing treatment for myositis.

Last year Samantha had revealed that she had been diagnosed with Myositis, a rare medical condition. Determined to not let the disease get in the way of her fitness regime, Samantha share a glimpse of her rigorous strength building and uncompromising gym routine. For the workout, she sported tie-dye athleisure and a grey crop top.

> **Being on a diet has taught me strength is not what you eat... it's how you think**

The actress also included one of the band Gravity's songs, Jalalauddin, in her post to thank them for providing her the willpower to persevere during her difficult times. Samantha wrote on Insta, "It ain't over till the fat lady sings. Thank you for the inspiration... You've gotten me through some tough days Being on the strictest possible diet (The autoimmune diet.. yes there is such a thing) has taught me that strength is not what you eat... it's how you think." Many celebs, social media influencers and fellow actors encouraged her on her endeavour to be more healthy and heal from the autoimmune condition, with simple emojis and quotes like, "You're the brightest, most beautiful and bravest Samantha ! More power and more power to you !" **—ETimes**

Kriti is all charm in red

Kriti Sanon who is gearing up for her upcoming family entertainer film 'Shehzada' on Wednesday took the internet by storm with her gorgeous pictures in a red striped dress.

Taking to Instagram, Kriti treated fans with one of her film promotional looks.

In the picture, she was seen posing in a high-slit cut-out red striped dress.

The actor opted for matching heels, kept her hair tied in a ponytail and wore a minimal makeup look.

To complete her look, she accessorized with statement earrings. Sharing the picture, she wrote, "Stripe It!" As soon as the pictures were uploaded, Kriti's fans flooded the comment section with hearts and fire emojis.

One of the fans wrote, "if perfection was a person, IT WOULD BE YOU." On Tuesday, the second song of the film 'Chedkhaniyan' was unveiled. **—Agencies**

Vicky Kaushal on nostalgia lane

Actor Vicky Kaushal turned nostalgic as he visited his hometown after a long time on Thursday.

Taking to Instagram, Vicky shared a couple of pictures which he captioned, "Mera Pind. All my childhood summer vacations were spent here... playing taash and cricket under the peepal tree. So much about this place has changed... but the warmth and sukoon I feel every time I'm back here, never changes!"

In the pictures, Vicky could be seen donning casual outfits and roaming the streets of his hometown.

Soon after he dropped the pictures, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons.

"This connectivity is understood only by those who have experienced it. also the punjabis r emotional people. so totally relatable," a fan commented.

Another fan wrote, "Childhood memories are magistic."

On the work front, Vicky is currently shooting for the last schedule of his upcoming film 'Sam Bahadur' in Punjab. **—IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

On a song

Navarasan who has played the lead in Psycho Shankar and bankrolled Tamil and Kannada movies is delighted over the response for the song – Dash - of Sutradhara, a film he has produced.

"I am thrilled over the tremendous response for the song from music lovers. We released this song in December and as of now this song has created a record – 10 million views – in one month. This movie will remain my favourite in my career as a producer," said Navarasan.

Sutradhara's team celebrated the success with a cake. "I wanted to have a very good song in my movie. There are three more songs in this movie and those are also good. The credit for this song's success goes to the team of Sutradhara," he said.

Chandan Shetty, who wrote the lyrics and composed music and also plays the lead in the movie, said that he was very happy about the response from music lovers. "I want to thank the media for the success of the song. Chethan and I wrote this song's lyrics," said Shetty.

It is said that the picturisation of the song was completed in two days. "I choreographed this song and completed the assignment in two days. Sutradhara is my second movie with Chandan Shetty," said choreographer Mohan.

Power of vote

The team of Kannada movie Prajarajya released its trailer recently. The team hopes to create awareness among the public on the importance of exercising franchise during the elections. The movie is scheduled for release a few months before the state elections.

"I am a doctor but I bankrolled this movie and also wrote story, screenplay and dialogues apart from playing a key role in it. The objective of this movie is to convey a message to society on the importance of financial freedom," said Dr Varadaraj.

He said democracy is the rule of the people, for the people and by the people in the country it has become democracy by some people, for some people. Kannada activist Rupesh Rajanna, who plays an important role in Prajarajya, said the movie highlights the importance of education and health. Actor-cum-lyricist Dr V Nagendra Prasad said cinema plays a key role in bringing changes in society. "I expect this movie to change the attitude of people towards exercising franchise and electing the right candidates," said Dr Prasad.